# Academic Senate
## Grossmont College
### Minutes of the Academic Senate – November 5, 2012

**GUESTS:**
- Agustin Albarran, Interim Dean English, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Denise Schulmeyer, Professional Development Coordinator
- Michael Reese, Dean Math, Natural Science, Exercise Science & Wellness
- Barbara Blanchard, Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Peg Marcus, Student, ASGC President

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<th>Sue Gonda (President)</th>
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I. CALL TO ORDER (11:05)

A. Public Comment
   Greg Robinson: Greg encouraged faculty to talk to their students about voting. He encourages the practice of asking students to visualize voting--asking where their polling place is, how they will get there and if they are planning on voting. It helps raise awareness for students and encourages them to vote.

   Evan Wirig: Evan announced there is a “Get Out the Vote” rally today in the quad. An open mike is available for students, faculty and staff to speak about the issues. He encouraged everyone to stop by and speak.

B. Approval of Agenda
   M/S/U Wirig/Flores

C. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2012.
   M/S/U Wirig/Sims

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Sue Gonda

   • Sue thanked everyone for their work educating students about the election issues and the importance of voting.

III. COMMITTEES

   None

IV. ACTION ITEMS

   None

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Grossmont College Hour--Discussion
   Sue gave background information on College Hour: The request for revisiting the possibility has come from Inter-Club Council, Associated Students of Grossmont College, and Leadership Council. Both the ASGC and ICC have voted in favor of holding a College Hour. Sue noted she had forwarded with the Agenda the summary of comments about the use of College Hour at other colleges in the State. The request is for a time when classes are not scheduled so that time is available on campus for student activities, professional development, collegewide events. [When GC had College Hour, it was Mondays, 11-12:00]

   Discussion followed; the following points were raised:
Comments in favor

- Numerous studies have shown that student retention and success increases when they are engaged in campus activities. One study sent with the agenda showed that there is a 14% increase in student success when students engage in purposeful college activities.
- Inter-Club Council and ASGC both voted unanimously in favor of a College Hour
- **Student Comment:** ASGC feels the time would be extremely productive for students; they would be a captive audience and ASGC and the rest of the College can relay information to students and get them involved in campus events.
- **Student Comment:** Currently it is difficult for student participation in clubs; College Hour would give ASGC and club advisors more opportunities for students to be involved in club activities
- **Student Comment:** ASGC would plan more activities for students to use the College Hour
- **Student Comment:** It is an opportunity for social connections on campus.
- **Student Comment:** Active participation is linked to better student engagement with classes and to student success.
- **Peg, ASGC Pres.:** most of the student government graduated last year; there was a possibility of no student government this year due to lack of participation. She and a few students spoke in their classes and now the student government has 16 members; if they can do this with a few minutes in class, the opportunity to have an hour dedicated to students would be very beneficial.
- The CCSSE survey showed GC students have very low student engagement [79% do not participate in any campus activity]
- SB1456 (Student Success Task Force Recommendations) is setting requirements for students and colleges to promote student success. A campus-wide review of SB1456 might help the college meet requirements and goals for students through College Hour.
- College Hour might facilitate fulfilling the SB1456 requirements through counseling and guidance opportunities; time for students to visit tutoring labs; create time for office hours with students.
- The time could be used for many opportunities to support students and student success; would not be for one specific item. It not only serves the 40+ clubs on campus, but allows time for students to visit the tech mall, tutoring center, have a point of contact, library use
- **Student Comment:** getting involved in ASGC has impacted his level of participation in classes and made a difference in him as a student
- **Student Comment:** without College Hour and the opportunity to feel more invested, students will lose interest in college when they are faced with fewer classes available; students drop out.
- **Student Comment:** ASGC is asking for an hour and a half per week to support students
- Since student representatives are saying that students want a College Hour; faculty needs to listen to that request and look for ways to make it possible.
- It will have no financial impact on the college
- Faculty members provide role models for students; supporting a College Hour provides a model for community engagement and involvement in the community
- When Grossmont had College Hour in the past, it had a broader impact on the community as a whole; people in the community came to campus to participate in some of the
activities; they can become more connected to the college, and take away information that impacts and improves their lives.

Comments against
- Having no classes during prime time, such as at 11:00 or 12:30 would create hardships in scheduling courses for many departments
- Enrollment Strategies Committee discontinued College Hour years ago due to scheduling conflicts when we were trying to get more Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES)
- Lec/Lab are extremely difficult to schedule outside the current time slots. Lec/Lab courses are difficult to split the time or to offer as hybrid courses;
- Students have work schedules; they like to take Mon/Wed or T/Th courses and work the rest of the time
- Students do not want to be on campus any longer than needed to take courses
- Not enough evidence to support foregoing classes in favor of College Hour; No clear evidence that offering a College Hour increases student engagement.
- Offering a College Hour presents operational challenges.
- Hybrid courses compromise student engagement – less time on campus.

Regarding Solutions/Suggestions and scheduling:
- Create a task force to continue research and discussion
- There can be a process to approve scheduling exceptions for lab/lec & other courses
- Offer hybrid courses during the time (College Hour on Mon; class meets on Wed); offer Wed/Fri courses;
- Make it voluntary, department by department, not to offer courses during that time (e.g., for an hour on Mondays)
- Studies are available regarding student success and engagement; use that information to help make a decision.
- Poll students as to what they would like.

B. Role and duties of faculty as Committee Division Representatives- Discussion
Questions have come up from three divisions about what the expectations are for division representatives on committees. There was a consensus that representatives should collect information from the departments in their division, provide that point of view to the committee, work collaboratively in committee for the good of the college, and then report out information from the committee.

Points raised in discussion were:
- Reps should send updates or information coming out of committees to the chairs, who can then disseminate to the rest of faculty as needed
- In the committee, reps speak from a division perspective; they should gather input from chairs/coordinators to relay to the committee
- It would help division reps if committee agendas were available before the same day of the meeting
• Reps should be able to synthesize information given in meetings and apply critical thinking to put needs of the college as a whole above a single individual department or divisions needs
• We need committee membership information on the website.
• Reps be a conduit for information to and from the committee
• Reps are a division resource for information that committees want

Sue noted that some comments raised the issue of terms for committee service; reps should know how long they are committed for; we should agree on policy and process for terms on all committees.

Meeting adjourned 12:15pm
Next meeting: November 19, 2012, 11:00-12:20pm Griffin Gate

The Academic Senate minutes are recorded and published in summary form. Readers of these minutes must understand that recorded comments in these minutes do not represent the official position of the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate expresses its official positions only through votes noted under “Action.”